

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) A search method comprising:
- obtaining a query including one or more terms, each term written in a first format, from a user;
 - translating the one or more terms of the query into a group of translated queries, each translated query having one or more terms in a second format, using a probabilistic dictionary, the probabilistic dictionary mapping terms from the first format to the second format;
 - searching a database for information responsive to one or more translated queries of the group of translated queries; and
 - returning search results written in the second format to the user, the search results referencing one or more documents responsive to the one or more translated queries.
15. (Currently Amended) The search method of claim 14, further comprising:
- obtaining search result selections from the user; and
 - using said search result selections to modify the probabilistic dictionary of term mappings.
16. (Original) The search method of claim 15, wherein the modification comprises adjusting at least one probability associated with at least one mapping in the probabilistic dictionary.
17. (Original) The search method of claim 14, in which the step of translating the query into the second format includes expanding the query.

18. (Original) The search method of claim 17, in which the expanded query includes alternative encodings of the query terms.
19. (Original) The search method of claim 17, in which the expanded query includes alternative language translations of the query terms.
20. (Original) The search method of claim 17, in which the expanded query includes alternative encodings and alternative language translations of the query terms.
21. (Original) The search method of claim 18, in which the expanded query includes synonyms of the alternative encodings of the query terms.
- 22-45. (Cancelled)